

REMARKS

Claims 20-32 are pending. By this Response, claim 20 is amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 20-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Someya et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0030690). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, determining a localized conversion ratio based on the edge width and a ratio control amount, wherein the localized conversion ratio is localized to each one of at least three segments of said edge width, wherein said at least three segments include a leading edge segment, a control edge segment and a trailing edge segment, in which the ratio control amount is positive in a leading edge segment, positive in a trailing edge segment and negative in a control edge segment of the edge portion such that the total sum of the ratio control amount of the leading edge segment, control edge segment and trailing edge segment is zero, the localized conversion ratio being generated by the expression $z = z_0 \times (1 + z_c)$ where z is the localized conversion ratio, z_0 is a reference conversion amount determined in advance and z_c is the ratio control amount. Applicants respectfully submit that Someya fails to teach these features.

Someya teaches the application of a zoom ratio to a leading and trailing edge that is higher than a basic zoom ratio applied to a flat segment of the image signal. A ratio lower than the basic zoom ratio is applied in the interior segment between the leading and trailing edge of an image signal. The average of these ratios of each of these segments equals the basic zoom ratio. See paragraphs [0209]-[0216].

Someya, however, does not teach how each zoom ratio is obtained for each segment. While the zoom ratios need to be different in each segment in Someya, the manner in which the zoom or ratios are obtained is not taught.

In contrast, Applicants claimed features referred refer to a specific manner in obtaining localized conversion ratios for various segments of an image data. Applicants respectfully submit that Someya fails to teach the specific recited features for obtaining a localized conversion ratios in claim 1.

Specifically, nowhere in Someya does it teach or suggest that the total sum of ratio control amount of the leading edge segment, control edge segment and trailing edge segment is zero. Someya teaches that the average of the segment's zoom ratio is equal to the basic zoom ratio. However, this does not equate to the sum of the various segments being equal to zero.

Furthermore, Someya does not teach each of a expression $z = z_o (1+z_c)$ as claimed. This expression is used to obtain the localized conversion ratios based on the ratio control amount at each segment and a reference conversion amount. There is no teaching of such calculation within Someya.

Therefore, Someya fails to teach each and every feature of Applicants independent claim 1 is required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


For at least the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 20-33 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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